

Sea Water Intrusion

Barrier Will Save Area Water Supply

Los Angeles County Flood Control District has launched an all-out program to halt further sea water encroachment into fresh well supplies in the Wilmington area, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Formally identified as the "Dominguez Gap Barrier Project," the undertaking is expected to reach an ultimate cost of \$2.7 million.

The completed system will consist of a line of 29 injection wells, which pump fresh water underground to form a barrier against brine contamination; observation wells to check on effectiveness of the defense line; and water supply and disposal facilities.

"THE PROJECT area is just inland from Los Angeles Harbor and the barrier will extend in an east-west direction from the Palos Verdes Hills to a north-south routing along Dominguez Channel," Chace said.

The district's West Coast Basin Barrier protects that area from Santa Monica Bay seawater intrusion. The Dominguez Gap effort will complete protective measures needed to block encroachment into the basin from San Pedro Bay.

The use of groundwater for domestic and industrial use from the West Coast Basin has exceeded natural replenishment for many years, Chace pointed out. This heavy use has lowered fresh supplies below sea level over the entire basin and resulted in saline contamination.

RESERVOIRS in the Central and West Coast Basin have been so seriously overdrawn that, over a large portion of the area, pumping levels are below sea level.

Chace said the area within the Coastal Plain is that portion of the West Coast Basin located adjacent to San Pedro Bay between the Palos Verdes Hills and Signal Hill and from the Dominguez Hills south to the ocean. It is generally referred to as "the Dominguez area."

Inland groundwater levels in the Dominguez area are as much as 90 feet below sea level.

TO CORRECT the problem, the Dominguez Gap Project has been divided into contract units designed to create, maintain, and monitor the fresh water blockage to further intrusion, Chace said.

Work has been separated into units to attract contractors experienced in specific fields. Consideration also was given to breaking down the units into reasonably sized contracts to make the bidding as competitive as possible.

Chace issued the following status report on the various units:

• Units 1 and 2: Water supply and disposal pipelines and pressure and chlorination stations are being built between Carson Street and Blinn Avenue. Bids were opened May 23 with Zurn Engineering Co. submitting low offer of \$823,615. The contract is expected to be awarded shortly by the Board of Supervisors, with construction due between about June 15 of this year and March 15, 1970.

• Unit 3: Water supply and disposal lines are being installed between Blinn Avenue and Figueroa Street. It is now being constructed by Mike Pritch and Sons under terms of \$355,379 contract awarded last Dec. 31. The job is due for completion in August.

• Unit 1A: 12 recharge wells are planned between Sepulveda Boulevard and Blinn Avenue. The work is expected to go to bid shortly, with a contract to be awarded about Sept. 15 and completed around May 15, 1970.

• Unit 1B: 22 observation

wells are planned throughout the project area. The project was completed by Bowline Drilling Co. July 15, 1967, as part of \$91,264 contract.

• Unit 1C: 26 observation wells have been built through-

out the project. The work was finished in May of this year by Teredon Drilling Co. under terms of a \$136,500 contract.

• Unit 1D: 17 recharge wells are being built between Blinn Avenue and Figueroa

Street. Pact was awarded by the Board to Teredon Drilling Co. on June 3 for \$203,567. It is slated for completion next Feb. 1.

WITH COMPLETION of

Units 1 and 2 by late spring of next year, the project will have 29 operating recharge wells spaced at intervals from 800 to 1,000 feet. All will be slightly inland from San Pedro Bay, running east from the

Harbor Freeway and curving north between Alameda Street and the Terminal Island Freeway, ending at Sepulveda Boulevard.

Chace said the initial water requirement for the recharge

wells is expected to be about 14,000-acre feet per year. It will be obtained from the Metropolitan Water District's second lower feeder system presently under construction at Alameda and Carson Streets.

Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District has indicated by agreement its willingness to buy the water needed for the project.

The estimated annual cost of water for injection is about \$270,000 at current MWD prices.

Operation and maintenance of the barrier, to be supervised by District Chief Engineer Walter J. Wood, is expected to run approximately \$180,000 a year, Chace said.

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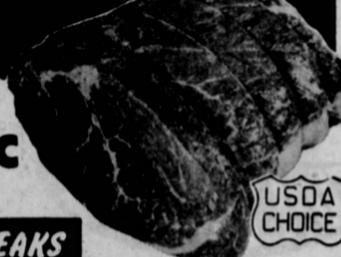
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Program In Drama Offered

A coed drama class is being offered to children from 8 to 12 years of age, Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Normandie Recreation Center, 22400 S. Halldale.

Starting June 24, the class will cover pantomime, skits, and improvisations.

Children also will work on a play which they will perform at the district "Day of Plays" Contest Aug. 7 at Peck Park.

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